

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 12-18, 23, 24, 26, and 27 are pending. Independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended, and claims 5-8, 11, 19-22, and 25 have been canceled.

The indication that dependent claims 5, 6, 8-13, 19, 20, and 22-27 would be allowed if suitably amended is gratefully acknowledged. This Amendment has incorporated the features of claims 5, 6, 8, and 11 into independent claim 1, and so it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its remaining independent claims are now allowable. This Amendment has also incorporated the features of claims 19, 20, into independent claim 15, and so it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 and its remaining dependent claims are also now allowable.

Various ones of claims 1-4, 7, 14-18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by either U.S. Patent No. 5,761,211 or U.S. Patent No. 5,859,671. Those rejections have been obviated by this Amendment, which has rendered all of the pending claims allowable.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of same is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, the undersigned attorney may be telephoned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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